



## Review

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*The Prestige Value of Public Employment in Chicago.* By LEONARD D. WHITE. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1929. Pp. 183. \$2.50.

This study concerns the prestige which various jobs in the city government of Chicago have in the minds of non-government employees. The practical problem involved concerns the type of person who accepts public employment. If the social evaluation of a city government position is high, a desirable type of young person will seek such employment; if the social evaluation is low, a less desirable type of employee will be found there. The theoretical problem consisted in securing an expression of opinion concerning city government jobs from widely selected groups. Schedules were used which called for an expression of preference between paired city and private positions, for an estimate of courtesy, competence, and so forth, on the part of public employees, for a comparison of public and non-public employees, and for response to a word association test consisting of the titles of positions in city government offices. Returns were secured from 4,680 persons, 46 per cent of whom were under twenty-five years old and 25 per cent of whom were students. It is plainly stated that the group is not typical of Chicago as a whole. The data are analyzed according to sex, age, occupational groups, and racial groups. The group studied expressed a rather marked preference for private employment, but the author believes that a true cross-section of Chicago opinion would show a more nearly neutral opinion.

*Kontinentale Wanderungen und die Annäherung der Völker.* By DR. IMRE FERENCZI. (Kieler Vorträge, gehalten im Wissenschaftlichen Klub des Instituts für Weltwirtschaft und Seeverkehr an der Universität Kiel, edited by PROFESSOR DR. BERNHARD HARMS.) Jena: Verlag von Gustav Fischer, 1930. Pp. 50.

Dr. Ferenczi's discussion of intracontinental migrations, based on a great volume of research data, is a remarkably successful presentation. Although the author quotes statistics rather freely, the paper is easily read and interesting. The greater part of the space is devoted to a review of international migrations which have taken place or are now going on, on the continent of Europe, but there is a brief survey of some outstanding Asiatic cases. Dr. Ferenczi is inclined to view migration as a natural phenomenon, and, in the long run, an inevitable one, but one which is complicated by political forces. In a very capable summary of his general findings, he points to indications of a growing international understanding which promises a more and more intelligent regulation of migrations between countries of the Western world. He views the problem as one of accommodation of the labor supply to the existing possibilities for its profitable employment.

*The Devil's Advocate: A Plea for Superstition.* By SIR JAMES GEORGE FRAZER. London: Macmillan & Co., Ltd., 1927. 6s. 6d.

This volume was formerly issued under the title *Psyche's Task*. No change in text has been made. In it the author makes his famous defense of superstition on the ground that it has served as a prop for government, private property, marriage, and respect for human life—the four main pillars of society. Superstition furnishes “the ignorant, the weak, and the foolish with a motive, bad though it be, for good conduct.” “Surely it is better, far better for the world that men should do right from wrong motives than that they should do wrong with the best intentions.” The author has collected hundreds of instances in

which superstition has served as he claims. To the discussion of superstition the author has added an essay on "The Scope of Social Anthropology." Sociologists will probably find the latter to be much more significant than the former.

*Porto Rico and Its Problems.* By VICTOR S. CLARK and ASSOCIATES. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution, 1930. Pp. xxxvi + 707. \$5.00.

This volume is a result of a study indorsed by the Social Science Research Council and, on their recommendation, undertaken and financed by the Brookings Institution. Mr. Clark, the director of the study, was formerly commissioner of education in Porto Rico. Chief among the topics considered are rural and town workers, public health, education, government, public expenditure and revenue, taxation, public personnel administration, banking, external trade and financial relations, commercial organization, manufactures, agriculture, and economic betterment. A very interesting history of the Porto Rican peasant is given in the Appendix. The treatment of each of these topics, as well as others, is very thorough and impartial. This volume is convincing evidence of the penetrating analyses of national life to which social scientists may attain through collective research.

*Mrs. Grundy: A History of Four Centuries of Morals Intended To Illuminate Present Problems in Great Britain and the United States.* By LEO MARKUN. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1930. Pp. xii + 666.

The reader of this book will view an interesting and impressive parade of moral conceptions and practices of England and the United States during the last four centuries. The assortment of characters, situations, and scenes is very odd, and particularly varying. The author in a very painstaking way has worked through primary sources and secondary characterizations and has collected an enormous fund of descriptions and judgments of the morality of a given stage. Every form of prudery and vice receives attention.

This work has merit as a study of the ceaseless shift in folkways and mores, as a *Kulturgeschichte* of taste and manner, and as an interpretation of contemporary American moral life. Sociologists who have any of these three interests will appreciate this volume; those who have all three will find it particularly valuable.

*Penal Administration as Related to Job Analysis, Personnel, and Civil Service.* A report submitted to the National Crime Commission by the SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARDONS, PAROLE, PROBATION, PENAL LAWS, AND INSTITUTIONAL CORRECTION. New York: National Crime Commission. Pp. 57.

Legislation during the last hundred and fifty years seems to indicate a growing interest in reformative measures rather than punitive in dealing with crime. Administration, however, is far behind legislation. Only two states have listed the position of warden under civil service, and only three states and two counties select their probation officers scientifically.

The prisons are among the worst victims of the spoils system. The most inexperienced persons are rewarded with positions as guards and paid from \$600 and maintenance to \$2,000 a year.

A good deal of criticism is just now being directed toward probation, psychiatric and psychological examinations, and self-government.